GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1250
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007
REDUCTION IN PORT FEE BY TRAI
Masood Shri Rasheed;Pathak Shri Brajesh;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India(TRAI) proposes to reduce the rates of port fees;

(b) if so, the total percentage of rates of port fee reduced;

(c) whether any assessment has been made with regard to the reduction in rates of telecommunication as a result thereof;

(d) whether any assessment has been made with regard to rise/fall in revenue collection of telecommunication as a result of reduction in such rates;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the percentage of reduction in tariff of telephone fixed phone line as well as of cellular phone for subscribers; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued amended Regulations on Port charges on 2nd February 2007 which is effective from 1st April, 2007. The amendment in these Regulations reduces the existing Post charges by about 23% to 29% for various slabs.

(c) The telecom tariffs are under forbearance, except for the tariff in rural areas in case of basic phone and roaming tariff in case of mobile phones and tariff for leased circuits. Service Providers are free to offer any combination of rental and free calls as alternative packages to the subscribers in addition to the TRAI stipulated standard tariff plan in rural areas.

(d) The port charges are payable by the interconnection seeker to the inter connection provider for terminating interconnection links on the network interface of the interconnection provider. The reduction in port charges is not directly connected to Average Revenue Per User. Therefore, the question of assessment of rise or fall in revenue collection of telecommunication does not arise.

(e) & (f) Do no arise in view of (c) & (d) above.